

Sample Reading Material for Lesson Planning



1 TOPIC PREVIEW

A People use sign language to say things without sound. Put a check (✓) next to the sentences that are true for you. Share your answers with your classmates.



1 ___ I know some people who can use sign language.



2 ___ I don't know any signs in sign language.



3 ___ I know how to make a few signs.



4 ___ I am good at sign language.



5 ___ I want to learn how to use sign language.

B Read the title of this chapter, look at the picture, and discuss the following questions.

1 How do people usually know when babies want something? Is it easy to understand what babies want?

2 What is happening in the picture?

3 What do you think the reading is going to be about?

2 VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- A** Read the word lists. Put a check (✓) next to the words that you know and can use in a sentence. Compare your answers with a partner. Then look up any unfamiliar words in a dictionary.

Communication	Academic Word List	Child Development
deaf hearing (<i>adj.</i>) sign (<i>v.</i>)	communicate normally research (<i>n.</i>)	develop grow infant intelligence test

The chart shows selected words from the reading related to communication, child development, and the Academic Word List (AWL). For more information about the AWL, see page 121.

B Fill in the blanks with words from Part A.

- 1 She's not even one year old yet. She is still a/an .
- 2 She can't hear sounds or words. She is .
- 3 To be successful in school, you need to good study habits.
- 4 To the word *drink*, make the letter "c" with your right hand and move it toward your mouth.
- 5 Very young babies sleep 14 to 16 hours a day, but some babies sleep even more.
- 6 How smart are you? You can take a/an to find out.
- 7 When the children older, they will leave home.
- 8 Both deaf and people can learn sign language.
- 9 She speaks Spanish, and he speaks Japanese. It's difficult for them to .
- 10 The class wanted to know more about the history of sign language. They decided to do on the Internet.

MP3 3 READING

Preview the questions in Reading Check Part A on page 6. Then read the story.

Baby Talk



Joseph Garcia

Babies normally start to talk when they are 13 to 15 months old. Ryan Jones is only eight months old, but he is already “talking” with his parents. When he is hungry, he opens and closes his hand. This means *milk*. He also knows the signs for his favorite toy and the word *more*.

Ryan is not deaf, and his parents are not deaf, but his mother and father are teaching him to sign. They say a word and make a sign at the same time. They repeat this again and again. When Ryan learns a new sign, his family is very excited. Ryan’s parents think that he will be a happier baby because he can communicate with them.

Ryan’s parents are teaching Ryan to sign because of a man named Joseph Garcia. Although Garcia was not from a deaf family, he decided to learn American Sign Language (ASL). First, he took courses in ASL. Then he got a job helping deaf people communicate with hearing people. In his work, he saw many deaf parents sign to their infants. He noticed that these babies were able to communicate much earlier than hearing

children. They talked with signs by the time they were eight months old. When they were one year old, they could use as many as 50 signs.

Garcia decided to try something new. He taught ASL to parents who were not deaf. The families started to teach signs to their infants when they were six or seven months old. These babies started using signs about two months later.

More and more parents took Garcia's ASL classes. Like Ryan's family, they were excited about signing with their babies. They wanted to give their babies a way to communicate before they could use spoken words.

Some people worry about signing to babies. They are afraid that these babies won't feel a need to talk. Maybe they will develop spoken language later than other babies. However, research does not show this. In fact, one study found just the opposite. Signing babies actually learned to speak earlier than other children. As they grow older, these children are more interested in books. They also score higher on intelligence tests.

There is still a big question for parents: Which are the best signs to teach their babies? Some parents make their own signs. Other parents want to teach ASL. It can be useful because many people understand it. There's no clear answer, but we do know this: All signing babies and their families are talking quite a lot!



4 READING CHECK

A Are these sentences true or false? Write *T* (true) or *F* (false).

- 1 Ryan is deaf.
- 2 Joseph Garcia can hear.
- 3 All parents want to teach babies to sign.

B Circle the letter of the best answer.

- 1 Which sentence is the main idea of the reading?
 - a Joseph Garcia is not from a deaf family.
 - b Parents who are deaf are teaching their babies to sign.
 - c Parents who can hear are teaching their babies to sign.
- 2 How many signs can Ryan make?
 - a three
 - b fifteen
 - c fifty
- 3 Why are Ryan's parents teaching him to sign?
 - a They want to understand him.
 - b They know Joseph Garcia.
 - c They are deaf.

4 When can babies start to use signs?

- a** at six months
- b** at eight or nine months
- c** at about one year

5 Which sentence is true about Joseph Garcia?

- a** Garcia taught ASL to infants.
- b** Garcia taught deaf parents how to sign to their infants.
- c** Garcia saw deaf parents use sign language with their infants.

6 What is the most important reason that hearing parents teach their babies to sign?

- a** The babies will be able to communicate with their parents.
- b** The babies will be able to speak earlier than other children.
- c** The babies will be more intelligent than other children when they grow up.

7 The research does not show that ____ .

- a** signing babies score well on intelligence tests when they are older
- b** signing babies don't learn to speak as early as other children
- c** signing babies are more interested in books as they grow older

5 VOCABULARY CHECK

A Retell the story. Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the box.

deaf hearing infants intelligence tests
normally research sign

- 1 Babies start to talk when they are 13 months old.
- 2 Joseph Garcia learned ASL, and he first worked with people.
- 3 Garcia saw deaf parents to their babies.
- 4 Garcia began to teach ASL to parents so they could teach their babies to communicate.
- 5 Some people worry about using sign language with who can hear.
- 6 People did to find out when signing babies learn to speak.
- 7 Studies show that children who can sign do better on .

B Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the word.

Verb	Noun
communicate	communication
develop	development
grow	growth

- 1 Sign language is a form of with no sound.
- 2 How old are babies when they language?
- 3 Signing babies are more interested in books as they older.
- 4 They don't speak the same language, so they can't well.
- 5 The of language normally happens when children are between one and two years old.

6 APPLYING READING SKILLS

Organizing information into a chart can help you see the information in a reading in a new way. This can give you a deeper understanding of the reading.

A Are these sentences true or false? Write *T* (true) or *F* (false).

- 1 Babies who learn to sign start to speak earlier than other babies.
- 2 Babies who don't learn to sign score higher on intelligence tests than other children.
- 3 Babies who learn to sign are able to communicate earlier than other babies.
- 4 As they grow older, babies who learn to sign become more interested in books than other children.
- 5 As they grow older, babies who learn to sign want to speak as much as other children.

B Use the answers in Part A to help you make a chart about differences between babies and children who learn to sign and other babies and children.

BABIES AND CHILDREN WHO LEARN TO SIGN

start to speak earlier

BABIES AND CHILDREN WHO DON'T LEARN TO SIGN

start to speak later

7 DISCUSSION

Discuss the following questions in pairs or groups.

- 1 Do you think it's a good idea to teach sign language to babies? Why or why not?
- 2 Do you think it's easy to teach signs to a baby? Explain your answer.
- 3 Do you think it's easy or difficult to learn to sign as an adult? Why?
- 4 Do you think there will be more "signing babies" in the future? Why or why not?



Thank you!

*Don't forget to leave your feedback for this session.
See you next time!*

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